

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-05 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4966
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1613

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NI, LY, GY, OVIP
SUBJECT: GUYANA PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM TO VISIT NIGERIA, LIBYA

REFS: (A) GEORGETOWN 1422; (B) GEORGETOWN 1390

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM'S PLANS TO VISIT NIGERIA
TO ADDRESS INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE HAVE NOW
BEEN MADE PUBLIC ALONG WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE PM
WILL VISIT LIBYA. VISIT TO NIGERIA REFLECTS BURNHAM'S
AND GOG'S INTENSE INTEREST IN SOUTH AFRICAN ISSUE. IN
LIBYA, BURNHAM HOPES TO GET SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

1. JULY 21 "GUYANA CHRONICLE" CARRIED FRONT-PAGE ANNOUNCE-
MENT THAT PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM HAS ACCEPTED NIGERIAN
INVITATION TO ATTEND AN INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID
CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN LAGOS AUGUST 18 TO 26 (REF A),
AND THAT BURNHAM WILL VISIT LIBYA ON SAME TRIP. BRIEF
REPORT CHARACTERIZED LIBYAN VISIT AS EFFORT TO ADVANCE
FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND
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DESCRIBED INVITATION TO ATTEND LAGOS CONFERENCE AS
INDICATION OF RESPECT WITH WHICH BURNHAM AND GUYANA
ARE HELD INTERNATIONALLY FOR GOG'S PRINCIPLED STAND ON
APARTHEID.

2. COMMENT: BURNHAM'S ATTENDANCE AT LAGOS CONFERENCE
WILL REFLECT ONCE AGAIN THIS GOVERNMENT'S WELL-KNOWN

PREOCCUPATION WITH SOUTH AFRICAN ISSUES. HE IS KNOWN TO BE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN ISSUE, AND UNDOUBTEDLY WILL USE HARD-HITTING RHETORIC TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM FAVORABLE IMPACT ON HIS DOMESTIC CONSTITUENCY. BURNHAM'S MAIN INTEREST IN LIBYA WILL BE TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. ALTHOUGH GOG DURING FINMIN WILLS' VISIT SUCCEEDED IN SECURING US \$5 MILLION LOAN FROM LIBYA (REF B), GOG WANTS A MUCH LARGER AMOUNT. WILLS RECENTLY COMMENTED TO CHARGE THAT BURNHAM APPEARED TO BE COUNTING ON QADHAFI TO MAKE A GRAND GENEROUS GESTURE. WILLS THINKS THAT SUCH THINKING IS UNREALISTIC. DURING HIS MEETINGS IN LIBYA HE CONCLUDED THAT THE LIBYANS ARE HARD-HEADED BUSINESSMEN WHO DO NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC TRADEOFFS TO GAIN FROM GUYANA.
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